

Esplanade Ridge/Treme Civic Association Board Meeting

Minutes

September 2, 2009

ERTCA Board President Matt Norton called meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. at Matt's resident on Esplanade Avenue.

Board Members present included Marie Marcal, Marva Arceneaux, Matt Norton, L.T. Thomas, Rhodesia Douglas and Gregory Douglas. (Hilda Young was not present.)

Order of Business

1. Blight Update/Training Day September 12th- M. Norton informed the Board that he and Pat O'Brien are attending the six-hour training session conducted by New Orleans Code Enforcement office. M. Arceneaux hoped that by changing one eyesore a domino effect can be created throughout the community. G. Douglas changed the discussion to the upcoming Recovery Road Work, expressing concerns about the aggravating inconveniences associated with the repairs. Others chimed in to express how the public input was omitted when clearly areas in more desperate need of repair should have been targeted first. Discussion then turned to transient population issues that give the false appearance that former residents have returned to the city. M. Norton put forth a question about St. Martin Manor's blighted condition, "Has anyone heard more on its reopening?" No one has.
2. 2201 Barracks Street Provisos –M. Norton moved on to this next agenda item, reminding the Board of the Planning Commission's unanimous vote to lift the provisos. M. Marcal told of her negative hearing experience in which the Treme Community Education Program successfully used all its elderly clients to create the perception that ERTCA was against old people. Focus, she explained, was completely averted to them and not the issue of violations of parking, operational hours, dumpster, unsightly a/c units, signs and on-site cooking. R. Douglas suggested future counter-strategy methods ERTCA should consider for these instances. M. Marcal concurred. M. Norton concluded the discussion by moving to action items such as informing the rest of the council of the matter and partnering with neighborhood associations. M. Arceneaux talked about similar battles waging in Eastern New Orleans with Eastover residents and developers.
3. Gayerre Park Update –M. Norton stated that he would ask a colleague in his architectural firm to develop a landscape design based on the \$450 grant.
4. Alternate Board Members – M. Marcal proposed adding an alternate Board Member since Novelt was no longer available to attend meetings. Whomever is chosen, the Board generally agreed, he or she should be available to attend community meetings. Off the subject, it was mentioned that the Fab. St. John group will be meeting about

the recanted 82-84 tiff to investors of the Gulf Coast Housing group and the Odyssey House. The ERTCA is pushing to oppose the project.

5. PRC Restoration Award Candidates. – M. Norton asked for nominees. Pat O'Briens recent renovations were proposed.

Meeting adjourned 7:47 p.m.